

Department of Agriculture's Work Across Massachusetts

\$4.9M Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) – Since 1999 AEEP has invested \$4.9 M in 421 conservation projects statewide.

\$15.7M Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) – Since 1996, **449** farms have been selected to participate in the program; **337** have been protected by covenants and a total of **68,843** acres impacted.

\$1.1M in Senior Farmer's Market, WIC Coupons and Homebound Distribution – WIC coupons are provided, and vouchers are distributed, to seniors who can travel to a farmer's market, and a delivery service is provided to homebound seniors to help them purchase fresh, local products.

294 Farmers' Markets – Farmers' markets are one of our best tools for preserving farmland, economically viable small business, and a healthy population. They connect farmers with consumers. DAR provides assistance with market organization, promotion, and regulatory compliance.

2,816 (98%) Schools and 2,806 (95%) daycares with DAR Approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans – IPM is a tool for reducing to a minimum the risk associated with pesticides in our schools and daycares. DAR assists in the creation and submission of the plans as mandated by Massachusetts General Laws, and makes those available to the public for review.

7,732 Pesticide Applicator Licenses – DAR licenses and regulates all commercial pesticide applicators in the state. Licensing requires extensive testing and continuing education credits. This includes all lawn and landscaping applications as well as indoor pest control applications.

Our Farms:

There are 7,691 farms in Massachusetts working 517,879 acres to produce \$490M in products. The average farm produces \$63,687 of agricultural products on just 67 acres.

312 Schools Participating in the Farm-to-School Program – DAR works with public and private schools (K-12), colleges and universities to help facilitate purchases of local agricultural products.

230 Animal Adoption Centers and Pet Rescues/ 139 Pet Shops – Operations that are authorized by DAR are subject to inspections and are under DAR regulatory oversight.

267 Horse Stables and 653 Instruction Licenses – all stables are inspected and licensed by DAR, and all instructors undergo testing prior to licensing.

69 Composting Facilities – DAR operates under a Memorandum of

Understanding with DEP to oversee commercial composting on farms taking in outside waste. All such facilities undergo an initial review and registration process as well as ongoing regulatory oversight by DAR.

69,239 Acres of Permanently Preserved Farmland on 834 sites – DAR purchases farmland in exchange for permanent deed restrictions. The restrictions preclude any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

36,272 Acres with Term Easements – DAR purchases easements in exchange for grants to improve economic viability.